



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: July 26, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 93,393.05
- Expense Warrant: \$1,165,548.02
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For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Due to some concerns we have received we have contacted National Grid to inquire about their plans to trim trees around the power lines in Town. They have responded that they cut one main feeder last year, and intend to complete two others (Milford Street and West Main Street that together encompass Route 140) this year. If there are other areas of particular concern that you have please let me know and we can pass those along as well.
- On Tuesday the Treasurer/Collector, Town Accountant, our Financial Advisor and I had a conference call to plan for our meeting with Standard and Poor's about our bond rating on August 6th. As you know, prior to going to market we have a meeting with S&P to review our financial condition and overall state of the Town so that our rating can be affirmed, and hopefully at some point improved. We are in a good position for this meeting and fully expect our rating to be affirmed. The sale date is August 15th.
- The contract finally arrived from the State for reimbursement to the Town by FEMA for the February 8/9th snowstorm. As mentioned previously, we are expected to receive just over \$52,000 as our share of the costs that are eligible. Unfortunately this did not come in time to count it in FY 13, but it will help our FY 14 revenue picture.
- The process is underway to close out Fiscal Year 2013 and the overall picture is good. The preliminary report shows we've brought in 98% of budgeted revenues, and turn backs from the operating budget appear to be just over \$100,000. There are three small encumbrances against that. The Accountant and Treasurer/Collector now begin the process to close out the books so the details can be reported to the DOR and free cash certified for future use.
- The state budget process has finally been resolved! On Wednesday the legislature passed the budget with a veto-proof majority at the amounts called for in the budget they had passed earlier in the season. Thus the amounts of aid that we had factored into our FY 14 budget will be realized. I would agree with MMA that we are pleased that they worked hard to preserve funds for the needs of our communities and that the unrestricted government aid cut by the Governor did not stand. On the unfortunate side remain Chapter 90 funds. The Governor has sole control on whether those funds are released or

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
James A. Brochu, Chairman
Robert J. Fleming
Kenneth E. Picard

TOWN MANAGER
Blythe C. Robinson
One Main Street • Suite 1 • Upton, MA 01568
T: 508.529.6901 • F: 508.529.1010

not, and at this time he has not made any plans to do so. MMA will be working with his office and others to see if a release of the remaining \$150 million will happen this construction season, and we'll let you know if it does.

- Work continues on the Town Hall project. The contractor is continuing with demolition of interior spaces. They also accomplished proper removal of the asbestos tile in the basement level that also needed to be removed. The boiler has been removed, bathrooms, and rooms on either side of the stage in the Main Hall. Next week they expect to remove the oil tank, and they will begin the process of installing shoring behind the building in preparation for the structural work in that area. The two side entrances to the building that were added over the years for direct entry to the Police Station and the Treasurer/Collector's Office have been removed.
- We received two proposals to update the Town's personnel pay and classification plan on July 23rd. The Personnel Board will review proposals, hold interviews and select a firm with which to proceed.
- I will be away from the office next week, and Chief Bradley will be the acting Town Manager in my absence. As a result I will not be sending out a report on August 2nd and return to the office on August 5th.